Ban on construction within 500 Mts. of Sea beaches

@*84. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a directive has been issued by Central Government to State Governments not to allow any construction within 500 Mts. of sea beaches all over the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) In 1981, the then Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, wrote to the Chief Ministers of all the coastal States saying that as the beaches have aesthetic and environmental value as well as other uses, they have to be kept clear of all activities at least upto 500 metres from water at the maximum high tide and that they must be kept free from all kinds of artificial developments and pollution from industrial and town wastes must also be avoided totally.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware that a Bombay party has gone to the High Court because a group of IAS and IFS officers have organised a cooperative society and have captured land in Bombay violating this limit. Is the Minister aware of this case at all?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

@Previously Starred Question 44, transferred from the 29th July, 1988.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Action against industrial units for not setting up effluent treatment plants

*85. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA:

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many industrial units have failed to set up effluent treatment plants despite directions given under the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, what are the details in regard to such units;

(c) whether such units include Government undertakings also; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken against such units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Sixty eight industrial units discharging effluents into the river Ganga were identified as "gross polluters" by an expert study. Of these 25 units have already set up effluent treatment plants, while such plants are under construction in 11 others. Five units have closed down for other reasons, and action has been initiated against the remaining 27.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Seventeen Central and State-sector Undertaking discharging effluents into the river Ganga have been asked to submit their time-bound programmes for installation/augmentation of their effluent treatment facilities.